

June 2011

# Bulova Byline

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman) (703) 324-2321 [chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov)



*Inside this Month's Issue:*

Celebrated Trees....2

Faith Communities  
Housing Event.....3

BRAC Moves.....4

Civil War Events.....5

Celebrate Fairfax  
June 10-12.....6

Tysons Open  
House.....6

Mason Neck Trail  
Project.....7

School Bond.....7

Fairfax County is a **Work Hard, Play Hard** kind of place and this Byline issue is full of both. On the **Play Hard** front, see inside for information about our County Fair, [Celebrate Fairfax](#), which will be held on the grounds (parking lot, actually) of the Government Center the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. There is something for everyone – music, food, carnival rides, informational displays... It is a great opportunity to have a good time and enjoy our community!

Civil War events and activities kick off this month as we commemorate the **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War**. Sentiments in Fairfax were very much divided during the civil war era and we were often a stage for action as opposing troops crisscrossed our fields and villages. A number of re-enactments will bring the history of Fairfax County to life this summer. [See inside for more information!](#)

**More opportunities for playing** can be found in the articles inside about the Mason Neck Trail and Celebrated Trees. You can also go to the County's website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/) to find free summer entertainment!

On the **Work Hard** front, my colleagues and I are working with our Federal and State representatives to mitigate the anticipated effects [of the BRAC moves](#). Some road and transit improvements are, or will be, in place when the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for the relocations arrives. In other locations we are trying to buy more time.

I am also working hard to resolve a stalemate on the **Phase 2 portion of the Rail to Dulles project**. The larger issue is how we reduce the overall cost projections for Phase 2, which begins at Wiehle Ave. in Reston, serves the Dulles Airport terminal, and extends into Loudoun County. The dispute involves the location of the Dulles Airport Metro Station, where an underground station adds \$330 million to the original \$2.5 billion estimate. Fairfax and Loudoun Counties and the Commonwealth are committed to seeing Phase 2 successfully completed. We are also united in our position regarding cost reduction opportunities. I thank U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray La Hood for convening a working group of stakeholders designed to resolve the impasse.

*Continued on next page...*

I hope you enjoy your summer and look forward to seeing you at some of the events and activities that contribute to the quality of life we enjoy in Fairfax County!

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova – Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

## Nominations Sought for Celebrated Trees Program

Do you enjoy time under the shade of a favorite tree? Ever planted one in honor of someone? Or maybe there's a giant tree in a nearby park you think deserves some special recognition?

The Fairfax County Tree Commission is looking for nominations to the [Celebrated Trees of Fairfax County program](#), which is designed to give you a chance to recognize special trees around the County. You can nominate trees that mean the most to you in one or more of these categories:

**Big Tree** — Tree that's one of the largest of its species.

**Historic Tree** — Tree associated with a significant event, person, landmark or institution.

**Commemorative Tree** — Tree or group of trees planted as a memorial of an event or person.

**Favorite Tree** — Any favorite tree.

Eligible trees will receive an honorary designation as a Celebrated Tree of Fairfax County, and will be included in a database on the county's website.

Historic, commemorative and favorite trees will be included in a database of the county's most special trees. Big trees will go into the county's Big Tree Database, as well as be submitted for consideration in the Virginia Big Tree Program.



Photos by Bob Baird

"Oldest Tree" in Vienna



Large Swamp Oak Tree

## “We are one community. We care.”

Those were the words of **Imam Mohammed Hag Magid at the June 1<sup>st</sup> Faith Communities Housing Engagement event** at the Government Center. Imam Magid is the current Chairman of **Faith Communities in Action**, a coalition I helped to found in 1995 to bring Fairfax County’s faith organizations together to create a forum for addressing shared community concerns and needs in partnership with our local government.

At that time, with the **recession of the ‘90’s** looming on the horizon, our Board was looking for ways to continue to meet needs our residents.

With the idea of reaching out to our faith-based neighbors, we began holding forums across the County to identify ways to help our constituents and congregations by working in partnership. Early efforts dealt with new Welfare to Work legislation, housing, prevention of gang activity and homelessness. Many faith-based groups were already running shelters, providing hot meals, and offering rental and utility assistance to residents in need.

At one of our forums at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church I was asked a question that became the seed from which Faith Communities in Action grew: **“Do churches talk to each other?”** Sally Bredenkamp asked me that, and I thought, “Of course!” But Sally disagreed. Not only was communication among like denominations sometimes lacking, but even more lacking was dialogue among different denominations, including the emerging diversity

of non-Christian religious organizations. Sally’s second question was “Does the County talk to houses of worship?” And again, the answer was: certainly not to the degree we could and should.

**Fortunately, things are different now.** At a June 1<sup>st</sup> Faith Communities Housing Engagement, our Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, along with the Department of Housing and Community Development and Faith Communities in Action organized a great event and started some excellent discussions about creative ways we can partner to end homelessness in Fairfax County.

The event brought together members of Fairfax County’s faith communities to discuss the County’s current housing needs, the successes achieved through partnering with the private sector and other non-profits, and the resources available to help them achieve shared goals.

Together, Fairfax County has a comprehensive and compassionate approach to meeting the needs of our residents. We are a “diverse, accepting, and welcoming” community, as Imam Magid said at the event. We have achieved a lot together, and we continue to find solutions to the challenges we all face and to help those in need.

**For more information** about Fairfax County’s efforts to end homelessness, you can visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/). You can contact the County’s Community Interfaith Liaison Office at [ciluser@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ciluser@fairfaxcounty.gov).



## Keeping Pressure on the Federal Government Over Mark Center

On May 31<sup>st</sup> I met with a senior Defense Department official to talk about the **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process**.

I stressed the need for the federal government to do more to mitigate the problems that we will experience if more isn't done to prepare the area around the **Mark Center** in the City of Alexandria for the transfer of 6,400 Defense workers in September as part of BRAC.



The Mark Center. Photo by [Marc Barnes](#), USACE

I also asked they allow a **delay of one year** for the moves to take place, something that is currently being considered by Congress (approved by the House, no word on the Senate yet). While it won't solve the problems that plague the site, this delay will help get some small improvements done.

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment Dorothy Robyn was very helpful, but the problem of the Mark Center is still great. **The federal government needs to do more** – the Department of Defense chose the Mark Center and they need to adequately prepare the site, which is woefully underserved by mass transit.

**Fairfax County has worked with our Federal Representatives** to prepare the areas around Ft. Belvoir's main post and north post (site of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) for the arrival of relocated employees. Thanks to Congressman Jim Moran, \$150 million is available to make improvements to Richmond Highway in the area near the new hospital. I also reported on Connector Bus changes to be implemented in the South County area around Ft. Belvoir's main post [in a previous Byline](#). Current info on the changes coming to Connector can be found [on their site here](#) or on [their Facebook page](#).

The project with the most potential for relieving traffic at the Mark Center is a proposed ramp **connecting the I-395 HOV Lanes to Seminary Road**. Unfortunately, construction has been delayed after a decision by the Federal Highway Administration to require a full Environmental Assessment despite the project being within the existing I-395 right-of-way.

I asked Deputy Under Secretary Robyn to work with the Federal Highway Administration to move the Environmental Assessment concurrently with other required assessments (such as an Interchange Modification Report) which will reduce the overall timeline of this critical project.

**I will continue to explore all Fairfax County's options to reduce congestion and prepare for the arrival of the 19,000 Defense Department employees coming to the County and the Mark Center.** The current deadline for those moves is September 15, 2011.

### Recent News Stories on BRAC

[Bulova calls on Pentagon to reassess Mark Center plan](#) (*Washington Examiner*, 5/31/2011)

[Virginia Congressmen Send Letter to Defense Secretary Asking for Delay of BRAC Move](#)  
(*MyFoxDC*, 6/2/2011)

[Fairfax Connector Bus Service to Expand Ahead of BRAC](#) (*Lorton Patch*, 5/24/2011)



## Civil War Events, Commemorations Happening in June

In commemoration of the **150th anniversary of the Civil War**, several events have been created in its honor throughout Fairfax County. These events include exciting **reenactments, camps and lectures** all about the Civil War.

If you're looking for a fun and educational camp for your kids to do this summer, I've heard many good things about the **Fort Ward Civil War Kid's Camp**. This educational camp aims to teach kids from ages 8-12 about life during the civil war through fun and interesting activities. The camp lasts from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM daily from **June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>** at the Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site.

If you enjoy history and learning about the Civil War, an exciting **encampment and reenactment of the Battle of Vienna** is taking place at the Vienna Community Center from **June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup>** and is completely free!

The Battle of Vienna in 1861 is a significant battle because it's the first time a train was successfully used as a strategy of warfare. Several events will be taking place along with the reenactment, such as live music from Evergreen Shade and a storytelling of the Battle itself by historian, Jim Lewis.

[Click here for a complete list of events happening in and around Fairfax County](#)

### *Civil War Snapshot: Virginia's June Battles*

Battle of Vienna  
Battle of Manassas  
1861

Battle of Seven Pines  
Battle of Fredericksburg  
1862

Battle of Chancellorsville  
1863

Battle of Cold Harbor  
1864

### Commemorating the Death of John Quincy Marr at the Fairfax Courthouse – June 1



## Celebrate Fairfax is Back! June 10-12 at the Government Center

It's time for **Celebrate Fairfax!** The festival is being held June 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> at the Fairfax County Government Center.

The annual festival is Northern Virginia's largest community-wide celebration and includes **live music, children's activities, a community market place, a laser show and fireworks.**



The 2011 headliners have been announced for the Bud Light Main Stage. Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

performing at 8pm will be **Third Eye Blind**. **The Bangles** will perform on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 8pm and Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> **The Legwarmers** will be performing at 4:30p.m.

For a full schedule of performances or to purchase your tickets, visit Celebrate Fairfax's [Entertainment](#) page.

Greenology is the newest signature program at Celebrate Fairfax! Greenology educates and motivates guests on leading a greener life. Incorporating green science, and featuring highly interactive activities, educational exhibits, and eco-friendly presentations, Greenology strives to create a more sustainable Fairfax County. And beyond! To learn about how your company can become involved, visit: [Greenology](#).

People are invited to participate in Celebrate Fairfax! as crafters, exhibitors, vendors, performers and volunteers. For more information on getting involved go to [celebratefairfax.com](#). For information about purchasing tickets [click here](#).



## Tysons Corner Community Open House June 15

The public is invited to attend an **open house on on-going Tysons planning and implementation activities** following the adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan last year.

Representatives from Fairfax County agencies will **provide project updates and answer questions**. Rezoning applicants who have submitted plans to redevelop in line with the new vision for Tysons will also be available to present their proposals and answer questions.

A list of open house participants and topics will be posted on the [Tysons web site](#) as they are confirmed.

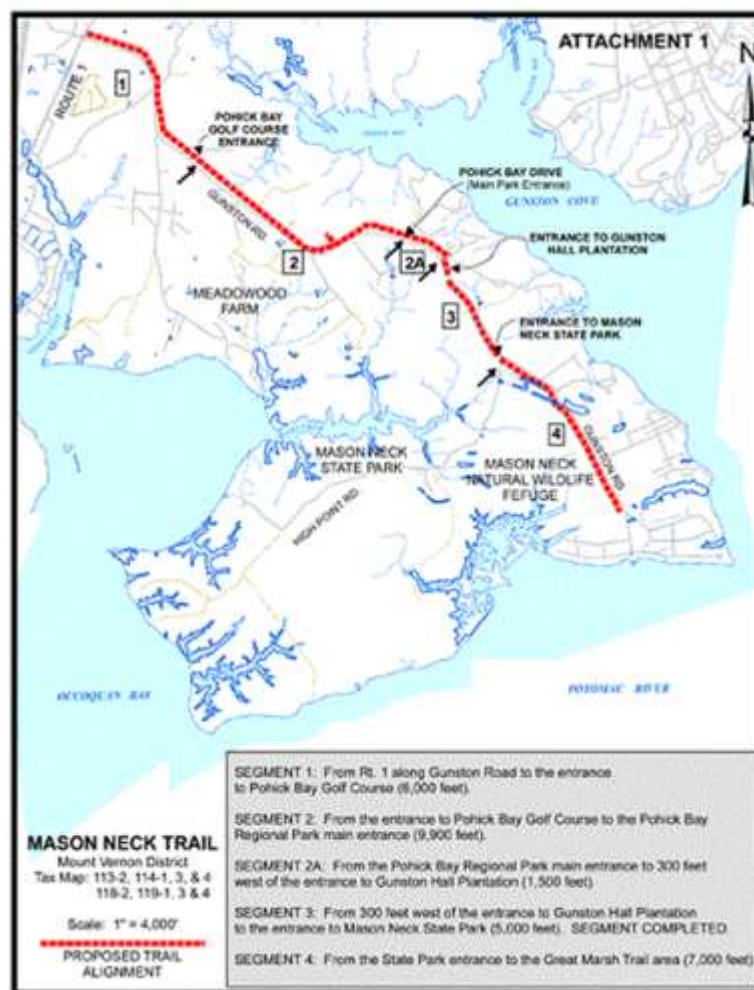
This event will use the same format as the open house held last December. Presenters will be stationed at tables for one-on-one and small group discussions. There will be no formal presentations, but a brief welcome message and introduction of the presenters will begin at 7:30. The open house will run from 7 to 9 pm, and meeting attendees are invited to come and go as is convenient.

## Progress Being Made on Mason Neck Trail Project

Progress is continuing on the Mason Neck Trail, a **5.6 mile asphalt trail that runs from Route 1 along Gunston Road to the entrance of the Great Marsh Trail**. Construction of the segment that runs from the entrance to Gunston Hall to the Mason Neck State Park is complete, and the section from Pohick Bay Drive to Gunston Hall is set to wrap up this summer.

Once complete, the Mason Neck Trail will connect Route 1 to the Great Marsh Trail and give visitors another hiking, cycling, and dog-walking option at Mason Neck, which is already home to several trails of varying difficulty.

The project is divided into five segments total. The segment that runs from the Pohick Bay Golf Course entrance to Pohick Bay Drive is in the final design phase. Construction funding for that segment got a boost on May 24<sup>th</sup> when our board approved an agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation that will allow an additional \$656,400 in VDOT funds to be spent. Work on the other two segments, on either end of the trail, has not begun.



## Voters to Decide on \$250 Million for School Renovations

This fall, Fairfax County voters will decide on whether or not to issue more than **\$252 million in bonds to renovate and build schools around the county**. These bonds will fund critical renovations at schools of all levels, including \$85 million to renovate the renowned Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria.

Details of how the schools plan to spend the **\$252,750,000** over several years can be found at [this link](#) on page 97.

**Some highlights include:** \$84.6 million for **Thomas Jefferson** along with \$11.5 million total for **Langley and West Springfield High**; \$97.7 million for renovation planning and/or construction work at **14 elementary schools**; and \$46.8 million for renovations at two middle schools, **Sandburg** (\$44.2 million) and **Thoreau** (\$2.1 million).

The election will be held on **November 8<sup>th</sup>**.